GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2036
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2016
Development of tourism in Islands
Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to develop Islands of Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep and other offshore islands of the country in terms of building infrastructure, power, resorts and hotels to promote tourism in these islands;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard including public-private partnership initiatives;
(c) the estimated cost involved in the development of such islands along with the time by which the said development will take place;
(d) whether the Government has taken any concrete steps to reduce the threats of natural calamities and if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
(e) whether the Government is encouraging the people of such islands including tribal population to engage in tourism related activities and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Niti Aayog has informed that they have taken up an initiative for preparation of a Concept Development Plan and detailed Master Plans for Holistic development of 10 Islands in Andaman & Nicobar as well as Lakshadweep Islands. Andaman & Nicobar Administration has formulated a "Tourism Policy" in the year 2010 for development of tourism. Similarly, Lakshadweep Administration has notified Lakshadweep Tourism Policy-2016, which envisages for holistic development of tourism in the entire UT of Lakshadweep Islands. Lakshadweep Administration has informed that they are in the advance stage of finalizing the Guidelines for establishment of Eco-friendly Resort, Scuba diving Centres etc. These guidelines will enable establishment of tourism infrastructure in all the tourist focal islands of Lakshadweep through Public as well as Private Investment and Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

(c): A Request for Qualification (RFQ)-cum-Request for Proposal (RFP) document has been prepared and uploaded on the website of NITI Aayog for engagement of a suitable consultant to facilitate preparation of Concept Development Plan and Detailed Master Plans for five Andaman & Nicobar Islands as well as five Lakshadweep Islands.

(d): The Administration of Andaman & Nicobar Islands has established separate Department "Directorate of Disaster Management" for managing disasters. A State Control Room has also been established and functioning 24/7 x 365 days. The Emergency Operation Centres are functioning in coordination with all line departments/stakeholder under the supervision and control of State Emergency Operation Centre with fine state of Art communication linkage with support of Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad, Indian Meteorological Department, New Delhi, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). In Lakshadweep, the Integrated Island Management Plan (IIMP) has taken care of the protection in the event of natural calamities.

(e): At present, SPORTS (Society for Promotion of Nature Tourism & Sports), the Government agency of Union Territory of Lakshadweep, employs tribals for running tourism and the UT Department of Tourism is imparting training to them in tourism related field. The Andaman & Nicobar Administration have informed that tribal areas are not open for tourism in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
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